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Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/10/2009 has been entered.

Examiner's Remark

Applicant's amendment, filed on 6/10/2009, has been received and entered into the file. The 103 rejections have been overcome in view of applicant's amendments/remarks and are hereby withdrawn. The examiner has identified that the newly amended limitation of the independent claims is supported by Fig. 12 and the description of Fig. 12.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Sameer Gokhale** on 9/8/2009.

The examiner has amended the following based on the claims dated 6/10/2009:

Claim 11:

first line, replace [configured to compensate] with –that compensates–,

first line of the second paragraph, replace [configured to thin] with –that thins–

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first line of the third paragraph, replace [configured to determine] with -that determines-
first line of the last paragraph, replace [configured to detect] with -that detects-

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art fails to teach the listed claims each of which specifically comprises the following listed feature(s) in combination with other limitations in the respective claims:

-- taking the motion compensating block having the greatest pixel-based size and performing a plurality of separate and independent sequences of incrementally dividing the motion compensating block having the greatest pixel-based size into smaller regions, and applying a size-reduced motion vector search range which is based on the motion vector search ranges to each of the smaller regions, each sequence dividing the motion compensating block having the greatest pixel-based size into different smaller regions than each of the other sequences and each of the sequences is performed substantially simultaneously to each other.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YUZHEN GE whose telephone number is (571)272-7636. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-4:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yuzhen Ge/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624